

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

### PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

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### TOM KIM

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Tom Kim to the interview room here at the 2024 Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Tom, thanks for joining us for a few minutes. I know you've had a lot going on coming off a very impressive and hard-fought week last week. With that now a few days in the rearview mirror, if we can have you look back on that and just a couple comments of what you were really proud of last week?

**TOM KIM:** I would say, yeah, you know, obviously it was a really good week last week. We did everything we could to try and get the win. Me and Scottie both beat the field by two, which is I think really hard to do at this level, at the depth of field. And for us to -- with one of my closest friends to be able to kind of play for a trophy, it's never happened for me before, so to kind of share that experience with him was really cool.

It's unfortunate for me to lose, but I'm very proud of him and I'm pretty sure he's having a really good time with his family so I'm happy for him.

Overall, just kind of where my game has been, it's just kind of nice to see that -- to kind of see the results just kind of come into play.

**MODERATOR:** Speaking of the results, you've had top-5 finishes now in two of your last four starts. What is it about your game, mentality, whatever it is that's really clicking and you're feeling good about?

**TOM KIM:** I think everything's just kind of coming together. Like I just, I think my game has been -- I felt like it was in a really good state the whole year, but just haven't seen really good results. I think that's kind of why I'm on this stretch was to kind of just kind of get my game a lot sharper because when you can do it at home and you can't do it out here, there's actually no point. That was the whole mindset of this stretch was to kind of get my competition game sharper, get ready for the majors. I'm very fortunate that it actually has shown and how my game has trended the right way.

**MODERATOR:** You're making your third start here at the Rocket Mortgage Classic, you've had a top-10 finish as well here. What is it about this place that you like and how it sets up, suits your game?

**TOM KIM:** It's a very traditional style golf course. It's a very tree-lined golf course, you need



to hit the ball in the fairway. Hopefully we don't get much rain where it firms up where you have to play for a lot of shots, ball position. I think that's a -- we don't get that much type of golf anymore, it's all about wide fairways, hitting it far, long holes, but this golf course, there's certain holes where it actually plays long but you have a lot of wedge opportunities where if you actually position yourself really well, you can score well.

**Q. Tom, can you talk about the impact your caddie, Paul Tesori, has had on you both on and off the course? Seems like your personalities mesh very well together.**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, so Paul and I have definitely -- it's definitely become a lot more than just a caddie-player relationship. Obviously it's very big, he and I have the same sign of faith, which is really, really cool. So perspective-wise, if I'm having a tough day on the golf course, the perspectives that he can give is very different from what I've had. Instead of just saying, hey, just a tough day on the golf course, he can definitely like just show a lot of the biblical stuff and it really helps me personally when it gets tough. Just to kind of see last week and the good finishes, because we've been working really, really hard to kind of just play well and to kind of see that and share the same perspectives when good things happen, it's really special.

**Q. Morning, Tom. I know you had a couple wins last year and a runner-up finish last year as well rather, and you had one this last week. Do you take more lessons from those close finishes when you finish just behind the leader or do you take more lessons from your victories?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, I think I felt like I've learned a lot more from my failures, or not failures but like tough weeks and like runner-up finishes because I feel like there's just so much more to gain. Where golf, you lose 99 percent of the year, that's just kind of the way it goes. Only one guy wins the trophy and everyone else goes home.

Victories are so much fun, that's why you play golf, to lift up some trophies, but when you play really good and you finish second to the No. 1 golfer in the world, but as much as golf I play with him and as close as I am with him, he's still really, really good. For me to be able to kind of extend it to playoff holes and to kind of experience that depth of field of playing my best golf and to see that, man, like I played really good, I had 24 birdies and two bogeys and the two bogeys came from two three-putts. Man, if I could save one of those shots, I win the golf tournament by one.

I feel there's so much more to gain when you have weeks like that. It's a positive week, but you always look at it as OK, how can I do better. You feed off so much and I think that's how you keep adding up good weeks and adding up your successes and leads to winning big golf tournaments.

**Q. How has Golf Forever like helped you in your physical fitness over the end of this eight-week stretch?**



**TOM KIM:** So that's actually the big thing. I went on this stretch before my -- I guess my rookie year at '22. It wasn't planned, it was just more it kind of happened. I think by the time I got to week six, seven, eight, I was very, very tired, but like now my fitness is way more consistent, it's way more intense. So that actually it's my ninth week and I'm feeling like it's only my second, I'm feeling really fresh.

To have a partner like that definitely helps me just stay in shape. Especially on the road, it's so hard to be disciplined and to be committed with your workouts and to have a partner like that where on Tour it's always accessible and it's easy to travel with, it kind of forces you to stay on it. Being consistent with my fitness has played a huge role in the young, early stages of my career.

**MODERATOR:** Thank you, Tom. We appreciate your time.

